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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/924,935	08/08/2001	Stuart D. Edwards	9222.16785-CON	5246

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EXAMINER

PEFFLEY, MICHAEL F

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3739

DATE MAILED: 01/20/2004

19


Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/924,935

Applicant(s)

EDWARDS, STUART D. 

Examiner

Michael Peffley

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 107-113 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 107-113 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

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Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on November 28, 2003 has been entered.

Applicant's amendments have obviated the 35 USC 101 and 35 USC 112 issues.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 107-113 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-88 of U.S. Patent No. 6,056,744. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably

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distinct from each other because the use of mapping electrodes to first detect tissue is deemed an obvious consideration for one of ordinary skill in the art, particularly in view of the Edwards disclosure.

Claims 107-113 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-51 of U.S. Patent No. 6,254,598. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the use of mapping electrodes to first detect tissue is deemed an obvious consideration for one of ordinary skill in the art, particularly in view of the Edwards disclosure.

Claims 107-113 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,258,087. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the use of mapping electrodes to first detect tissue is deemed an obvious consideration for one of ordinary skill in the art, particularly in view of the Edwards disclosure.

Claims 107-113 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-16 of U.S. Patent No. 6,402,744. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the use of mapping electrodes to first detect tissue is

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deemed an obvious consideration for one of ordinary skill in the art, particularly in view of the Edwards disclosure.

Claims 107-113 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 27-52 of U.S. Patent No. 6,077,257. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the use of mapping electrodes to first detect tissue is deemed an obvious consideration for one of ordinary skill in the art, particularly in view of the Edwards disclosure.

Claims 107-113 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-9 of U.S. Patent No. 6,673,070. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the use of mapping electrodes to first detect tissue is deemed an obvious consideration for one of ordinary skill in the art, particularly in view of the Edwards disclosure.

Claims 107-113 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-17 of U.S. Patent No. 6,613,047. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the use of mapping electrodes to first detect tissue is

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deemed an obvious consideration for one of ordinary skill in the art, particularly in view of the Edwards disclosure.

Claims 107-113 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the pending claims of copending Application No. 09/911,874. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the use of mapping electrodes to first detect tissue is deemed an obvious consideration for one of ordinary skill in the art, particularly in view of the Edwards disclosure.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claims 107-113 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the pending claims of copending Application No. 09/971,085. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the use of mapping electrodes to first detect tissue is deemed an obvious consideration for one of ordinary skill in the art, particularly in view of the Edwards disclosure.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed November 28, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With regard to the double patenting rejections, applicant asserts that MPEP 804(II)(B)(2) requires a side by side comparison of the claims of the instant application and the claims of the cited patents and applications, keeping in mind that only the claims of the cited patents and applications can be considered. It is noted that MPEP 804(II)(B)(2) concerns double patenting issues involving non-obvious type or "Schneller" type double patenting rejections. The examiner has made obvious type double patenting rejections in accordance with MPEP 804(II)(B)(1). The analysis employed parallels the guidelines for 35 USC 103. The examiner maintains that in view of the scope of the patented claims (and pending claims in the provisional rejections), one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that it is obvious to map sphincter tissue prior to treatment in order to ensure optimal/desired results as fairly taught in the prior art.

Conclusion

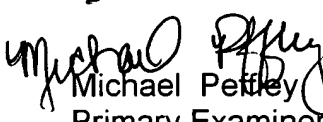
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Edwards ('197) discloses an apparatus which includes an expandable member (i.e. balloon) with electrodes deployable from the expandable member.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Peffley whose telephone number is (703) 308-4305. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 6am-3pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda Dvorak can be reached on (703) 308-0994. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0858.


Michael Petty
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3739

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January 14, 2004